

Security Tip of the Month

February 2007

We're always hearing about computers being infected with viruses, worms, even Trojan Horses. So what are the differences? Although some people use these terms interchangeably, they have unique characteristics.

Viruses - This type of malicious code requires you to actually do something before it infects your computer. This action could be opening an e-mail attachment or going to a particular web page.

Worms - Worms multiply without user intervention. They typically start by exploiting a software vulnerability (a flaw that allows the software's intended security policy to be violated). Once the victim computer has been infected, the worm attempts to find and infect other computers. Similar to viruses, worms can multiply via e-mail, web sites, or network-based software. The automated self-propagation of worms distinguishes them from viruses.

Trojan horses - A Trojan horse program is software that claims to be one thing while, in fact, doing something different behind the scenes. For example, a program that claims it will speed up your computer may actually be sending confidential information to a remote intruder.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2  Pay Day	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14  Valentines Day	15	16  Pay Day	17
18	19  Presidents Day State Holiday	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			



ADOA Information Security

AIS

Managing Our Information Safeguards

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